

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /085 W

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R 211000Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3580

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

RUEHCRXAMCONSUL CAPE TOWN 281

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY LINEUP

CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. THE FOLLOWING LIBERATION GROUP FORCE LEVELS WERE PROVIDED  
US BY THE INFORMATION OFFICER FOR THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND  
WHO IS ALSO A LEADER OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA  
AND WHO HAS BEEN A CONSISTENTLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF MILITARY  
INFORMATION.

OVERALL TROOP STRENGTH: FNLA - 33,000; MPLA - 18,000; UNITA -

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WTNPPP KONLY 6,000 HAVE ARMS)

IN ANGOLA: FNLA - 18,000 - 20,000; MPLA - 17,000; UNITA - 25,000.

IN LUANDA: FNLA - 3,000 -#4,000; MPLA - 2,000; UNITA - 1,200.

IN CABINDA: FNLA - 700; MPLA - 1,300; UNITA - 250.

IN ADDITION, THE SOURCE CREDITS FLEC (THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ENCLAVE OF CABINDA) WITH 7,000 TROOPS, OF WHICH 5,000 ARE IN ZAIRE AND 2,000 IN THE CONGO.

2. THE FORCE LEVEL FIGURES CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE REASONABLY ACCURATE FOR MPLA AND FNLA BUT BY NO MEANS DEFINITIVE. (THE PORTUGUESE LONG AGO LOST THEIR EXCELLENT DGS-RUN INTELLIGENCE NETWORKS INSIDE THE MOVEMENTS AND NOW DEPEND LARGEMLY ON SECONDARY SOURCES.) HOWEVER TO ATTRIBUTE 7,000 MEN TO FLEC SEEMS TO US A GROSS EXAGGERATION IF IT REFERRED ONLY TO CABINDAN SOLDIERS. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY FEELS THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF NON-CABINDANS IN FLEC'S ARMY (CONGOLESE AND ZAIROIS) AND THAT THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN THEIR STRENGTH. ALSO UNITA'S 25,000 SEEMS LOW TO US. 'LUANDA 0392). WE JUDGE 35,000 IS CLOSER TO THE MARK BUT AGREE THAT PERHAPS ONLY 6,000 NOW HAVE WEAPONS.

3. COMMENT: THE POINT OF THESE NUMBERS IS THAT FNLA HAS LOST MILITARY SUPREMACY OVER MPLA. A YEAR AGO FNLA HAD A MASSIVE LEAD OF 18,000 TO 25,000. EVEN AS LATE AS JANUARY FNLA HAD 22,000 TROOPS WHILE MPLA HAD ONLY 6,000. NOW, WHILE FNLA STILL HAS 15,000 MORE EFFECTIVES THAN MPLA, THE TWO FORCES ARE EQUAL IN SIZE WITHIN ANGOLA AND FNLA'S LONG SUPPLY LINES ACT TO NEGATE THE REMAINING NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE EXTRA 15,000 IN ZAIRE. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT MOST SERIOUS FIGHING TO DATE - AND THE LIKELY SITES OF FUTURE BATTLES - ARE IN PRO-MPLA TERRITORY WHERE THE CIVILIAN POPULACE IS HOSTILE TO FNLA AND WHERE MANY BLACK CIVILIANS ARE ARMED AGAINST THEM.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LUANDA00617  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750178-0432  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE MILITARY LINEUP CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINT, AO, FNLA, UNITA, MPLA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006